

Existing Levels of Service

In addition to reducing operating costs, another argument in favor of intergovernmental cooperation is the potential improvement in the quality of service when small departments or organizations are combined. In order to identify those activities within the MetroWest fire departments that could benefit from a cooperative program it is necessary to quantify the current level of service being provide by comparing existing conditions to a level of service standard. A level of service standard is a unit of measurement by which the efficiency and effectiveness of the particular service is evaluated.

Operational Information

Tables 5, 6 and 7 provide operational information, equipment status and staffing levels in each of the fire departments. This data should be evaluated along with budgets and expenditures to determine whether each community is satisfied with the level of service currently being provided.

With respect to recommended safety standards or levels of service, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs do not currently endorse a specific set of standards. The NFPA is in the process of developing a facilities planning and preparation guide which sets up formulas and future growth scenarios so an individual community can determine how to plan for the most effective fire safety service, based on specific circumstances.

Table 5

FIRE FIGHTERS ON STAFF 1995

TOWN	Full Time	On Call
Ashland	12	18
Framingham	170	0
Marlborough	70	0
Natick	71	0
Southborough	8	28
Sudbury	33	0
Wayland	24	0
Wellesley	44	0
Weston	44	0
TOTAL	476	46

Source: Fire District Fourteen, Wellesley Fire Department, Weston Fire Department

Table 6

FIRE DISTRICT FOURTEEN OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

1995

OPERATIONAL INFORMATION	Ashland	Marlborough	Natick	Southborough	Sudbury	Wayland	Wellesley
Number of Calls for Service	1,540	4,984	3,734	748	1,289	2,407	3,218
Number of Fire Incidents	718	162	240	64	645	236	123
Number of EMS Incidents	822	2,284	1,907	394	644	553	1,470
Average Response Time (minutes)	3 to 4	2.2	3.7	3	3.6	3.7	3.3
Number of Public Education Activities	43	—	29	12	—	38	—
Number of Civilian Injuries/Deaths	0	77	12	2	0	1	2
Number of Fire Fighter Injuries	2	2	10	4	0	5	0
Total Mutual Aid Given	34	6	116	6	32	114	95
Total Mutual Aid Received	—	1	208	3	—	58	41
Total Dollars Fire Loss	\$159,700	\$400,861	\$633,325	\$291,900	\$237,625	\$246,500	\$113,792

NOTES:

- The only information required to be reported to the state Fire Marshal are the number of fire incidents resulting in loss of dollars, and the amount of dollar loss. All other information is optional.